

DISPOSAL DATA

South Carolinians disposed of more than 3.3 million tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) in fiscal year (FY) 2004 – a slight increase from the previous FY. That figure translates into each of us disposing of about 4.4 pounds of MSW per day – roughly the same as the previous FY. That figure is about 1 pound more than the state's waste disposal (reduction) goal of 3.5 pounds per person per day (p/p/d) set by an October 2000 amendment of the S.C. Solid Waste Management Policy and Management Act of 1991 (Act).

Disposal figures are reported annually to the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) by permitted solid waste facilities whether publicly or privately owned. There are currently 404 permitted solid waste facilities operating in South Carolina. While there are 15 types of facilities, only three specifically handle MSW: MSW transfer stations; MSW incinerators; and MSW landfills.

There were 35 permitted MSW transfer stations operating in FY04. A transfer station, as defined by the Act, is a combination of structures, machinery or devices at a facility where solid waste is taken from collection vehicles and placed in other transportation units, with or without reduction in volume, for movement to another solid waste management facility.

Another method of disposal is incineration. South Carolina has one MSW incinerator – Montenay Charleston Resource Recovery – where 227,802 tons of MSW was burned for energy recovery in FY04. As a result, 56,826 tons of ash was generated and disposed of in the Oakridge MSW Landfill in Dorchester County.

Finally, there is the MSW landfill, which by law must meet minimum criteria for siting, design, construction, operation and post-closure. All new MSW landfills and lateral expansions to existing landfills must comply with the requirements of the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Subtitle D federal requirements.

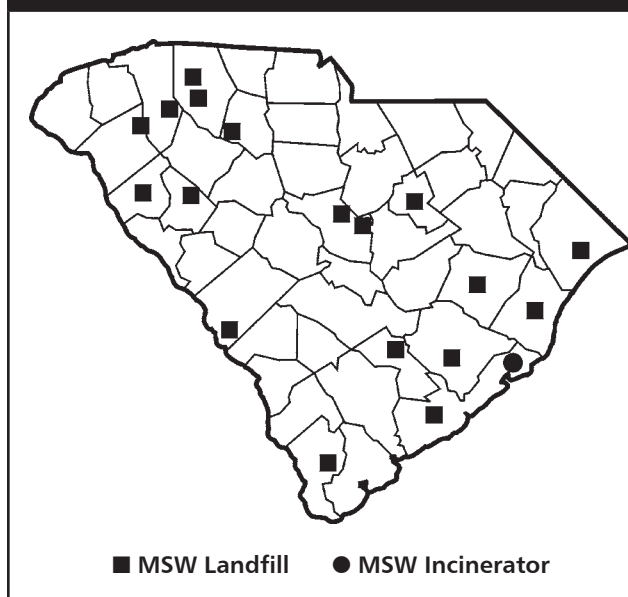
In FY04, there were 18 permitted operating MSW landfills (see Charts 4.1 and 4.2 for locations). Local

governments own 10 of the landfills and eight are privately owned. Two MSW landfills (Bees Ferry MSW Landfill in Charleston County and Williamsburg County MSW Landfill) continue to operate under DHEC consent orders. These consent orders allow the landfills to continue accepting MSW for disposal even though they do not meet RCRA Subtitle D requirements. The remaining 16 landfills meet RCRA standards.

It is important to note that MSW landfills accept waste other than MSW. About 5.8 million tons of solid waste – which includes construction and demolition debris, imported solid waste, industrial waste and MSW – was disposed of in the 18 MSW landfills in FY04. The total reflects a 10 percent increase from the previous FY when 5.3 million tons of solid waste was disposed of in MSW landfills.

The majority of the solid waste disposed of in the state is disposed of in privately owned MSW landfills. In FY04, landfill owners/operators reported more than 4.4 million tons of solid waste being disposed of in eight private MSW landfills compared with 4.1 million tons in FY03. In addition, three of those private MSW landfills (Lee County Landfill, Palmetto

CHART 4.1: MSW Disposal Facilities



Landfill, Richland Landfill) accepted 48 percent of all the solid waste that was disposed of in S.C. MSW landfills.

Finally, about 1.4 million tons of solid waste was disposed of in the state's 10 publicly owned MSW landfills in FY04 – a slight increase from the 1.2 million tons in FY03.

Tipping fees are the prices paid to dispose of solid waste at a landfill. Tipping fees were provided on the MSW landfill reports submitted to DHEC. While tipping fee data is incomplete (only a portion of the facilities actually reported this number), it is worth noting that in FY04 the average MSW landfill tipping fee was \$32 per ton.

More than 1.5 million tons of the 5.8 million tons of solid waste disposed of in MSW landfills in South Carolina was imported from nine states. The states are: Delaware; Florida; Georgia; Massachusetts; New Jersey; North Carolina; Tennessee; Texas; and Virginia. By comparison, five South Carolina counties – Chester, Lancaster, Oconee, Pickens and York – exported 131,164 tons of MSW.

Imported solid waste, of which the majority is MSW, is not calculated into the state's recycling and disposal rates. Imported solid waste, however, impacts the state's landfill capacity. Overall, the amount of imported waste reflects an increase of 25 percent from the previous FY.

Of the 5.8 million tons of waste disposed of in permitted MSW landfills during FY04, 5.7 million tons or about 99 percent was disposed of in MSW landfills meeting federal Subtitle D standards.

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For more information about MSW disposal facilities in South Carolina, visit www.scdhec.gov/lwm/html/min.html. Click on the county map at the bottom of the page for data about facilities in your community.

A Closer Look at Remaining Landfill Capacity

The current total **permitted** annual rate of disposal at the 18 MSW landfills in the state is 9.2 million tons. Based on the current rate of disposal at these landfills – which has averaged 5.26 million tons per year for the past three years – the estimated remaining capacity of the MSW landfills is slightly less than 100 million tons. Six of the 18 MSW landfills currently account for 76 percent of the state's total remaining capacity.

Based on FY04 disposal rates and barring any capacity adjustments, the state's total MSW landfill life expectancy is 17.1 years. At the **permitted** rate of disposal – that is if the MSW landfills accept the maximum waste currently allowed by DHEC – the total life expectancy of MSW landfills is 10.8 years. See Chart 4.2 for details.

South Carolina has more disposal capacity currently than it has had in the past decade. At the same time, the overall number of MSW landfills has decreased since the stringent federal Subtitle D standards were adopted.



CHART 4.2: MSW Landfills, Remaining Capacity & Disposal						
NAME OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE LANDFILL (MSWLF)	COUNTY	PERMITTED YEARLY DISPOSAL RATE IN TONS	FY04 DISPOSAL RATE IN TONS	ESTIMATED REMAINING CAPACITY OF MSWLF IN TONS	ESTIMATED REMAINING LIFE OF MSWLF BASED ON PERMITTED DISPOSAL RATE IN YEARS	ESTIMATED REMAINING LIFE OF MSWLF BASED ON FY04 DISPOSAL RATE IN YEARS
Abbeville County MSWLF	Abbeville	46,000	23,492	417,685	9.1	17.8
Anderson Regional Landfill	Anderson	438,000	347,690	8,012,200	18.3	23.0
Bees Ferry Road MSWLF	Charleston	150,000	80,097	247,500	1.7	3.1
Berkeley County MSWLF	Berkeley	1,000,000	255,505	3,101,936	3.1	12.1
Enoree Phase II MSWLF	Greenville	243,750	223,601	370,597	1.5	1.7
Georgetown County MSWLF	Georgetown	79,582	47,416	1,634,280	20.5	34.5
Greenwood County MSWLF	Greenwood	114,000	92,616	4,501,635	39.5	48.6
Hickory Hill MSWLF	Jasper	302,000	227,131	4,648,862	15.4	20.5
Horry County MSWLF	Horry	250,000	219,815	3,878,270	15.5	17.6
Lee County Landfill, LLC	Lee	1,944,939	1,079,920	25,810,116	13.3	23.9
Northeast Sanitary Landfill	Richland	218,400	217,174	330,956	1.5	1.5
Oakridge MSWLF	Dorchester	1,144,000	633,573	9,232,741	8.1	14.6
Palmetto MSWLF	Spartanburg	1,200,000	1,051,733	4,820,160	4.0	4.6
Richland Landfill, Inc.	Richland	655,000	654,475	7,246,977	11.1	11.1
Three Rivers MSWLF	Aiken	500,000	291,534	18,873,774	37.7	64.7
Union County Regional MSWLF	Union	730,000	232,934	5,945,052	8.1	25.5
Wellford MSWLF	Spartanburg	150,000	112,034	301,400	2.0	2.7
Williamsburg County MSWLF	Williamsburg	35,000	18,131	154,995	4.4	8.5
STATE TOTAL	—	9,200,671	5,808,869	99,529,136	10.8	17.1

